

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

www.house.gov/costello

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1312**

January 7, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

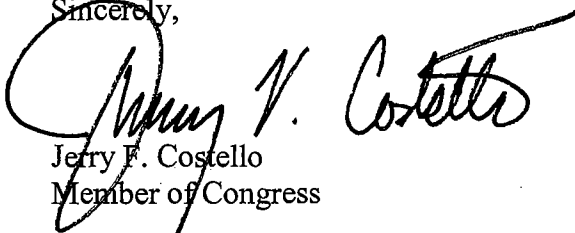
Dear President Bush:

As you know, Southern Illinois was hit by record snowfalls the week of December 19. Due to the large snow removal and safety costs incurred and the concern for the ability to respond to future snow emergencies, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has declared 17 counties state disaster areas and requested that they be declared Federal disaster areas as well.

I strongly urge you to expedite the Governor's request for this assistance. The large snowfall was combined with high winds and very low temperatures, severely impacting snow removal operations. Four of the 17 counties, Franklin, Jackson, Union and Williamson, are in the congressional district I represent. Federal assistance will greatly aid the recovery efforts of the State of Illinois.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or be of assistance in any other way.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress

JFC/dg

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